The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been addressing the High Courts periodically for filling up of vacancies of judges in the High Courts. Efforts are also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats.

Speedy disposal of cases

1298. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be please to state:

(a) whether there has been any discernible improvement in the speedy disposal of Civil cases since enforcement of new guidelines governing disposal of CPC cases;

(b) the major recommendations of Justice V.S. Malimath Committee constituted to suggest reforms to the Cr. P.C.; and

(c) the amendments Government propose to make to take care of increasing number of criminal cases stalled due to witnesses turning hostile in the courts, leading to acquittal in most of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) The Amendments to the Civil Procedure Code, 1908 have been brought into force with effect from 1st July, 2002 only. It is too early for any discernible improvement on the disposal of civil cases.

(b) Justice V.S. Malimath Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System has not yet submitted its report.

(c) The Law Commission of India has recommended some amendment to section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973. The Report of the Law Commission would be processed after it is laid on the Table of the House, in consultation with the State Governments, as Criminal procedure and Criminal law are on the Concurrent list of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Electoral Reforms

1299. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be please to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision on Electoral Reforms